

# NI Bulletin

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# Numismatics International Bulletin

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Uphoff:

Reading the most interesting article of Mr. Shutterly I feel, however, the first coin picturing Jesus Christ should be the tremissis of Visigothic king Erwig 680-87. Reference: Classical Numismatic Group Auction 55 (13. Sept. 2000). Lot 1501, Wikipedia Pictures see king Erwig, Sebastian Steinbach: Imitation, Innovation und Imperialisierung, Geldwesen und Münzprägung als wissenschaftshistorische Quellen zur ethnischen Identität und Herrschaftsorganisation des spanischen Westgotenreiches (ca 572-714). Berlin 2011, page 317. Fig. 0421

Sincerely Yours

Reinhold Jordan NI Life Member87

## Levern Mill

### A new countermark variety or different die?

Eric C. Hodge NI#2784

In 2001, Spink published, for the British Numismatic Society, a book by Harrington E. Manville, entitled 'Tokens of the Industrial Revolution - foreign silver coins countermarked for use in Great Britain c 1787-1828', (Manville). (Note 1).

Manville, pages 19-24, covers the issuer Levern Mill of Barrhead, Renfrewshire, Scotland. There are three varieties listed for this countermark.



Figure 1

1) Type 8 being 5/6 surrounded by LEVERN·MILL·S·D&C° with no special gaps between the words, (main mark) and an additional small S·D within a roped circle (secondary mark). (Fig 1).

The outer rim of the main countermark has three, approximately equidistant, triangular nicks – above the stops between N·M and L·S and the small ° of C°.



Figure 2

2) Type 9a being 5 surrounded by LEVERN·MILL·S·D·&C° (note the dot after D), using small letters and a wide gap between C° and LEVERN. (Fig 2). The outer rim of the countermark has one triangular nick equidistant in the gap between C° and LEVERN.



Figure 3

3) Type 9b being 5 surrounded by LEVERN·MILL·S·D·&C° (note the dot after D), using large letters and a smaller gap between C° and LEVERN. (Fig 3). The outer rim of the countermark has one triangular nick above the right hand downstroke of the M.

There are six known examples of type 8, dated 1740, 1805, 1808(2), 1810 and 1811.

I have studied photographs of five of them, the sixth coin having been stolen, with no photograph being available. Of these five examples four have been cancelled, but enough of the original main mark remains to be sure that the value and name are all one punch. Of the four cancelled examples, one has both the main and secondary countermarks cancelled by digs, another has the main mark cancelled by a grille pattern with the secondary S·D left clear and the remaining two have the main mark cancelled by digs with the secondary S·D left clear.

There are two known examples of type 9a, dated 1803 and 1804. Manville lists three examples, but the first on a Mexico City 1797 FM 8 reales, is in fact type 9b. I have studied photographs of both examples. One mark is cancelled by digs, but enough remains to be fairly certain, when compared to the uncanceled example, that the value and name are all one punch.



Figure 4

There are four known examples of type 9b, dated 1789, 1793, 1797 and 1801. Not one is cancelled (which would lead one to believe that this would have been the final issue). I have studied photographs of all four and there is no doubt that the value and name are all one punch. An additional interesting fact is that there are broken annulet privy marks, in various locations, on the reverse

of all four examples. (Fig 4 shows one on the centre of the left-hand pillar and one in the loop by the right-hand pillar).

As all four type 9b's have the same obverse countermark, the hypothesis that the reverse broken annulet marks were stamped first can be discounted.

The importance of the main countermark being one punch, as opposed to two, is that it can be considered as an entity when deciding about new types or varieties.



*Figure 5*





*Figure 6*

Recently, a further example of the Levern Mill countermark has come to my attention. (Figs 5 & 6).

The host coin is an 1805 TH Mexico City 8 reales.

The countermark is type 9b, using large letters and a smaller gap between C° and LEVERN, and having the dot after D. The 5 is cancelled by digs, but enough remains to be able to make a reasonable guess that the alignment of the 5 with the outer wording is the same as the other type 9b's. However there are differences with this example.

The outer rim of the mark has three triangular nicks, as in type 8, but these are positioned slightly differently. One is above the stop between N·M, as in type 8, the others are above the stop between S·D and just before the ° of C°.

In addition to the above differences, there are no broken annulets on the reverse. In the photograph (Fig 6) there is a mark visible within the ribbon loop on the left-hand pillar under the letters PL of PLUS. I am assured by the owner that, after inspection with a binocular microscope, there are no visible privy marks on the reverse.

I summarise the variables below, with the new coin provisionally designated 9c.

Type	8	9a	9b	9c
a) Nicks	3	1	1	3
b) Dot after D	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
c) Letters	Small	Small	Large	Large
d) Gaps	No	Wide	Small	Small
e) Value	5/6	5	5	5
f) Extra S·D	Yes	No	No	No
g) N°s Known	6	2	4	1
h) Cancelled	4	1	0	1
i) Rev. privy marks	No	No	Yes	No
j) Dates	1740	1803	1789	1805 c
c = cancelled	1805 c	1804 c	1793	
	1808(2) cc		1797	
	1810 c		1801	
	1811 ?			

What then, is the rationale for this new coin's classification?

It has type 8 outer ring marks, but in different positions (a).

It has no additional S·D mark, nor is it valued at 5/6, so is not type 8 (f).

It has type 9a and 9b value (e).

It has type 9b lettering size and spacing (c) & (d).

It has a dot after D so not type 8 (b).

It has type 9a lack of reverse privy marks (i).

It is cancelled, indicating an earlier issue (h). It is dated 1805 so more to type 8 and 9a, though it would fit all types fairly well (j).

Based on this information, the coin is a type 9, but is definitively neither type 9a (because of a, c & d above), nor type 9b (because of a & i above). I suggest an allocation to a new type 9c, as I believe the differences are a fundamental change rather variations from a regular die.

The next problem is where each type fits, chronologically, in relation to one another.

Any discussion must involve two important aspects, first physical evidence and second informed supposition.

The physical evidence must revolve around the remaining coin dates, especially the latest, showing when marking was carried out. On this basis the type order would be 9b (1801), 9a (1804), 9c (1805) then 8 (1811).

The next aspect is the privy marks. I think it perfectly reasonable that privy marks will have evolved over time as counterfeit copies began to appear. Which marks can we assume to be privy marks for the purpose of highlighting forgery? Certainly the reverse broken annulet marks, (i) above, because they vary in position and are not immediately obvious. I also believe the triangular nicks, (a) above, to be a form of privy mark, because they vary on the different issues and are not intrusive. The extra S·D mark, (f) above, must not be treated as a privy mark. It is certainly not hidden and I believe it to be an additional mark to make copying more difficult, or to highlight to the Levern Mill a special issue, maybe the extra value, 5/6 as opposed to 5/-.

This value aspect leads us to the third piece of physical evidence. When would a value of 5/6 be issued? Manville, pages 243-247, lists market prices of Spanish dollars from 1790 to 1828. Countermark values were always slightly higher than the intrinsic silver value, (to prevent melting), so we are interested in dates when the dollar cost was about say 5/3 or 5/4. This occurred between 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1811 until 1<sup>st</sup> September 1812. After this date, prices were above 5/6 until 1<sup>st</sup> July 1814 when they fell below 5/- for the remainder of the countermarking period, except for the first five months in 1815. These dates sit perfectly with the latest

5/6 host coin dated 1811. It seems quite likely, therefore, that the issue at 5/6 occurred during 1811-1812, (Manville mentions 1810-1812 on page 24), but that the 5/- issues were before this date rather than after. Manville (page 24) states that possible issue dates were 1805 to 1810 for type 9a 5/- and 1815 to 1820 for type 9b 5/-. Overall the price of dollars from 1816 to 1828 was below 4/6 except for 1818 and the first half of 1819 when they were below 4/9. If a 5/- issue was made during this period, then one would have expected an issue higher than 5/6 during the period September 1812 to mid 1815. None is known. One could argue that the higher the value, the quicker it would disappear when prices fell, but we still have examples of 5/6. I believe we should stay with the known physical evidence, until something tangible proves it wrong. The new coin, dated 1805, is the latest 5/- host coin.

I propose 5/- issue dates between 1802 and 1810, for all type 9's. Now can we put them in some sort of order? I believe we can, based on privy marks.

This is where the educated supposition, or is it really spirited guesswork? comes into play.

Counterfeiting has always been a problem, no more so than when host coins are freely available and all that is required is a simple countermarking punch. With a fluctuating silver bullion market, any business issuing countermarked dollars would be aware of the possible risk of counterfeiters. It is, therefore, quite likely that Levern Mill had this in mind when they made their first issue of dollars. If we assume that this was type 9a, then a basic one nick in the outer edge of the countermark is a useful control. If in time this was copied, rather than change the die, a quicker response could be an extra privy mark on the reverse. Though basic, this would be a clear additional effort to counter the counterfeiter. So I agree with Manville, (page 24), that, notwithstanding the earlier host coin dates, this anti-counterfeiting refinement would indicate that type 9b was issued after type 9a.

We now come to type 9c, with no reverse privy marks, but three nicks in the outer edge of the countermark. This certainly is a refinement, with the ability to place the marks very precisely. It seems, therefore, quite likely that type 9c followed 9b. This order is further confirmed by the continuation of the lettering and gaps used in type 9b. It is, of course, possible that type 9b followed 9c, but this arrangement would place type 9b even later in the chronology and this is unlikely because of the extra nicks in an earlier issue and also the earlier host coin dates of type 9b.

A change then occurred, to a smaller punch, as seen in type 8, but retaining the three nicks in the outer edge of the countermark. On average, all type 9 countermark diameters are 48% of the host coin. For type 8 this reduces to 42%. It is, presumably, when the countermark was reduced, that the dot after the D (present in all type 9's) was dropped.

The situation with the early host coin dates of type 9b, and the fact that not one is cancelled, makes this a difficult problem to reckon with. We can only await future coin finds, contemporary records or better informed opinion to answer these questions.

In summary, the order of issue I propose is type 9a, 9b, 9c (1802-1810) type 8 (1811-1812).

I would very much appreciate other views and comments.

My thanks are due to Mr. Harrington Manville and Dr. D.J. Rampling for reading and discussing this paper.

### Acknowledgements.

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Figs. 5 & 6. Illustrations reproduced by kind permission of Dr. D.J. Rampling.

Note.

1) Winner of the 2002 book prize of the International Association of Professional Numismatists.

## Camerino or Rome? An Intriguing Coin of Pope Clement X

**Robert Ronus, NI #LM139**

Nomisma, a leading Italian numismatic firm based in San Marino, had an intriguing 1673 giulio of Pope Clement X (1669-76) in their May 2018 auction. For most English speakers the standard catalogue of Papal coins is Berman but the coin is not listed there. It also cannot be found in the Rome volume of the enormous *Corpus Nummorum Italicorum* (Vol. XVI). Instead they attribute it to Camerino, a city in the province of Macerata, in the central Italian Marche region (Vol. XIII), which had come into the possession of the Holy See in 1539. Here is the coin:



**Image (enlarged 2×)**

**Image courtesy of Nomisma, Auction 57, May 18-19, 2018, lot 1382.**

Obv.: CLEMENS X • PONT • MAX • A • III • I. Bust r., at neck MDCLXXIII. Rev.: VENANTIVS • M • CAMERS • SANCTVS •. Saint with halo standing on ground with trees, holding banner in right hand and city in left, below hatted shield with arms of Mgr. Raggi, president of Rome mint (lion rampant l.). AR. 26 mm. 3.20

g (official wt.). CNI XIII, p. 252,2, (Tav.XV,29), Munt. 36, and KM 354. Realized 550 euro before 18% buyer fee.

Clement X was born Emilio Bonaventura Altieri. The Altieri family belonged to the ancient Roman nobility. His mother was Victoria Delfin, a noble Venetian lady. One of her brothers was Flaminio Delfin, commander general of the Papal Armies, and another was Gentile Delfin, bishop of Camerino. Born in Rome in 1590, the young Altieri received a doctorate in law from the Roman College in 1611. He then pursued a career in the Church. In 1623 he was appointed an auditor in the nunciature of Poland and on April 6, 1624, he was ordained. On his return to Rome in 1627, his elder brother, Giambattista Altieri, who had followed their uncle's footsteps and been elected bishop of Camerino in 1624, resigned his bishopric in favor of Emilio. The younger Altieri would remain Bishop of Camerino until resigning in 1666.

This did not prevent him taking on other jobs: governor of Loreto and of all Umbria and then eight years as papal nuncio to Naples. After he resigned as Bishop of Camerino, Pope Clement IX named him Superintendent of the Papal Exchequer (in charge of the Church's finances), his *maestro di camera*, Secretary of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars and finally Cardinal. When Clement IX died in 1669, Albieri, at the age of 79, was elected to succeed him as Clement X. He reigned for 6 years.





**Pope Clement X by Gianlorenzo Bernini**

Clement X apparently had a special place in his heart for Camerino, where he had been bishop. The reverse of the coin (and also of a double scudo d'oro he struck) portray St. Venantius (or Venezio), patron saint of Camerino.

According to tradition, he was a 15-year-old who was tortured, and martyred by decapitation at Camerino in 251 or 253 during the persecutions of

Emperor Trajan Decius. Martyred with him were 10 other Christians, including Porphyrius, Venantius' tutor; and Leontius, bishop of Camerino. Before Venantius was killed, he was scourged, burned with flaming torches, hanged upside-down over a fire, had his teeth knocked out and his jaw broken, thrown to the lions, and tossed over a high cliff. His 11th century Acts state

additionally that he managed to briefly escape from Camerino and hide at Raiano, where a church was later dedicated to him.

Venantius was buried outside the city walls of Camerino, where a basilica was built in the fifth century, and later rebuilt many times in succeeding centuries. The cult of Venantius became popular: his image appeared on coins and in litanies; springs near the basilica, which were associated with the saint, were used by lepers and people with peptic ulcers to cure their afflictions. Clement X encouraged the cult, raising the saint's feast to the level of a double rite and composing hymns for Venantius' office.

CNI apparently took the view that Clement struck these two coins in memory of Camerino and its patron saint and that the coins should be listed under Camerino. Other authors and auction houses have often followed suit. However, the Camerino mint was closed in 1545 and, as stated in CNI, these coins were struck in Rome. They are normal Rome giulios and there is no reason not to list them with other papal issues struck in Rome with a variety of reverses. Muntoni, in his 4 volume catalog of coins of the Papal States published in 1972-74, lists them as Rome issues and has no Camerino coins for Clement X. Krause has followed his example. However it is cataloged, it is an interesting and attractive little coin.



**Venantius is hung upside-down over a fire, and then thrown to the lions. Wall mural from St. Venantius Church, Horgenzell (near Ravensburg)**

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Wikipedia: articles on Clement V, Camerino and St. Venantius.

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gianlorenzo\\_bernini,\\_busto\\_di\\_Clemente\\_X\\_02.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gianlorenzo_bernini,_busto_di_Clemente_X_02.JPG)

Wall mural of Venantius.  
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## The Gold Franc à cheval of John II

Michael Shutterley NI#2703

On September 19, 1356, an English army under Edward, the Black Prince, defeated and captured the French King John II at the Battle of Poitiers. Under the 1360 Treaty of Brétigny, the Black Prince's father, king Edward III, gave up his claim to the throne of France, while John II agreed to pay a true king's ransom: 3,000,000 gold coins, the equivalent of just under 15 troy tons of gold. This ransom was equal to about five years' revenue for the English Crown.

To pay the enormous ransom, John issued the Ordonnance of 5 December 1360 which not only provided for a new gold coin, but also declared that with this coin the king would be *franc* ("free"), that is, released from captivity. The new coin portrayed the king in full armor on horseback with a raised sword and, based upon the design of the coin and its stated purpose, it became known as the *franc à cheval* ("free on horse").



The inscription on the obverse of the *franc à cheval* reads *IOhAnnES: DEI - :GRACIA: - FRAnCORV: REX* ("John, by the Grace of God, King of the French").

The reverse displays a Leafed Cross with a quadrilobe at center; the inscription reads + *XPC · VICIT · XPC · REGNAT · XPC · IMPERAT* ("Christ Commands, Christ Reigns, Christ Conquers").



The English released John after he signed the Treaty. Before leaving England John swore to pay the ransom in full; as a guarantee of his sincerity he left behind 40 hostages, one of whom was his second son, Louis, the Duke of Anjou. Three years later, with the ransom in arrears, Louis escaped and returned to France. John considered this to be a disgraceful breach of the code of chivalry and he voluntarily returned to England. Always in bad health, he died in captivity in April 1364. France ultimately paid only half of the promised ransom and war broke out anew in 1369.

The *franc à cheval* not only commemorates one of the most significant events of the Hundred Years War, but it was the very first franc. And while the Euro replaced the franc in 2002, the *franc à cheval* continues to exert a hold on the French soul: in 2015 France commemorated this historic coin with a series of gold and silver Euro-denominated coins, each of which depicts the original *franc à cheval*.

## **Carthage in Sicily and North Africa**

### **Uncertain mint in Sicily, c. 350-320 BC**

**Shanna Schmidt**



AR Tetradrachm, 16.95 g (23 mm, 7h). Head of Tanit-Persephone l., wearing wreath of reeds / Horse prancing r.; behind, palm tree with cluster of dates. Pedigree: Ex NAC 8, 1995, 197; NGSA I, 2000, 63 and Gorny & Mosch 146, 2006, 81 sales. References: McClean 3037 (these dies). Jenkins Punic Sicily 122.

*Carthage, located in northern Africa, was founded in c. 814 BC by the Phoenicians. It was originally dependent on the city of Tyre until about c. 650 BC when it gained its independence. At that point it started to seize control over other Phoenician settlements located in the Mediterranean. With its superior location near the sea it became a trading post for the area. From 600-265 BC Carthage was in periodic wars with nearby Sicily. This coin was struck towards the end of the Sicilian-Carthaginian conflicts. Stylistically the coins of Carthage bear resemblance to their Sicilian counterparts. There were likely Sicilian die cutters that went to work in Carthage as similarities are stark. The goddess Arethusa and the Carthaginian version of Tanit-Persephone are beautifully sculpted. The quadriga which is a standard reverse (or obverse type on some issues) for the Sicilians is transformed into a single horse for the coinage of Carthage.*



DR.HAROLD DON ALLEN July 2, 1931 – July 11, 2020  
 NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL LIFE MEMBER 61 .

Dr. Harold Don Allen , a lifetime NI Bulletin reader and contributing author and a scholar of numismatics for 70 years, died at the age of 89.

Dr. Allen, who taught generations of math students and future teachers instilled a sense of wonder in bright young people about the beauty of numbers and cryptograms, brought a story - teller's passion to the curation of numismatics history from banknotes to milk tokens, and loved nature and the lore and lure of the Canadian North, passed away peacefully on July, 11, 2020 in Brossard, Quebec, with his family at his side.

The family has created a memorial site with a tribute to his life and a rich photo gallery including several with numismatics contents: <https://mountroyalcem.permavita.com/site/HaroldDonAllen.html> .

Old friends and NI associates are encouraged to leave messages there as you share with Dr. Allen's family your memories of life well lived.

John Christian , NI Membership Chairman

An item he might have been interested in is below (Ed.)



*Fig. 1a United Kingdom 5 Pounds 1961 obverse*



*Fig. 1b United Kingdom 5 Pounds 1961 reverse*